

PATENT SPECIFICATION



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215,848

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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in or relating to Floatable Bodies.

I, JOHN CHARLES HENRY McCASKILL, of Landseer House, 79, Marine Parade, Worthing, Sussex, British subject, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

This invention consists in improvements in or relating to floatable bodies and has for its object to provide means to afford a novel aquatic pastime requiring skill.

The present invention comprises an inflatable body of elongated form and of such shape and dimensions that, when inflated, it can be straddled by the legs of the user and will have sufficient buoyancy to support the latter with the inflatable body partially submerged.

Preferably the inflatable body has, in general outline, a shape indicative of the body, head and neck of an animal, bird, or other creature, although the invention is not limited to the particular shape.

In one particular form of the invention two flat shaped portions of rubber, somewhat similar in profile to the outlines of a body, neck and head, are placed in register one over the other and are fastened together along their margins in an air-tight manner by a rubber covering strip cemented or vulcanised to the material of the two shaped portions. Preferably, in what is intended to represent the lower point of the breast of the animal, an inflation tube is provided which may, or may not,

have a non-return air-inlet valve in it. If no valve is provided the tube can be doubled back on itself and tied securely to prevent escape of air after the body has been inflated.

It is found that when such a body is floated in water and the body-portion straddled as in straddling a horse, the weight of the user will depress somewhat that portion of the surface serving as a seat or saddle and will thus tend to pull the two extremities towards one another, the head and neck coming back towards the user. Thus, in cutting the blanks or shaped pieces from which the body is formed, the angle of the neck in relation to the body is so chosen that it assumes a more or less natural position when the user is astraddle of the body.

It is found that with practice such a body can be "ridden" without mishap even in a rough sea, and it may be used as a "mount" for a player in various aquatic sports, for example in the game of water-polo.

It is obviously within the invention to form the body of any shape and to represent any desired beast or bird or such device as the designer may take for his model.

Dated this 19th day of February, 1923.

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Chartered Patent Agents.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in or relating to Floatable Bodies.

I, JOHN CHARLES HENRY McCASKILL, British subject, of Landseer House, 79, Marine Parade, Worthing, Sussex, do

[Price 1/-]

hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described

and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention consists in improvements in or relating to floatable bodies and has for its object to provide means to afford a novel aquatic pastime requiring skill.

Inflatable bodies are well known in various forms for supporting or aiding swimmers. For example, a pair of buoyant bodies, such as inflated balls, interconnected by a strap or the like, has been proposed, the support of the buoyant bodies being obtained through the medium of the interconnecting strap which is adapted to bear on some part of the user's anatomy. Again, floatable bodies of wood for example, in the form of a horse, with or without co-operating inflatable air-bags to give additional buoyancy, are also well-known.

The present invention, however, differs from all such previously known devices and comprises essentially an inflatable body of elongated form composed of flexible material and so designed as to shape and dimensions that, when inflated, it can be straddled by the user and will have sufficient buoyancy to support the latter with the inflatable body partially submerged. An advantage of such a construction is that the body serves as a mount upon which the user can ride. The rider is only partially submerged, say to the waist, and has both arms free so that he can propel himself or use them in any game in which he may, on his mount, intend to take part. When desired, the body can be readily deflated and can be rolled up into small compass as it is made up of flexible and inflatable material. Notwithstanding the flexibility of the material, the elongated form of the body gives sufficient rigidity, when in an inflated condition, as to enable the rider to propel himself in any direction and to turn quickly.

Preferably the inflatable body has, in general outline, a shape indicative of the body, head and neck of an animal, bird, or other creature, although the invention is not limited to the particular shape.

One preferred form of the invention will now be described by way of example only with the aid of the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of the body deflated.

Figure 2 is a view showing the body inflated, and

Figure 3 is a perspective view illustrating the body in use.

In the particular form of the invention shown two flat-shaped portions of rubber 10, somewhat similar in profile to the outlines of a body, neck and head of an animal, are placed in register one over the other and are fastened together along their margins in an air-tight manner by a rubber covering strip 11 cemented or vulcanised to the material of the two shaped portions. Preferably, in what is intended to represent the lower point of the breast of the animal, an inflation tube 12 is provided which may, or may not, have a non-return air-inlet valve in it. If no valve is provided the tube which is then made flexible (for example of rubber) can be doubled back on itself and tied securely to prevent escape of air after the body has been inflated.

It is found that when such a body is floated in water and the body-portion straddled as in straddling a horse, as shown in Figure 3, the weight of the user will somewhat depress that portion of the surface serving as a seat or saddle and will thus tend to pull the two extremities towards one another, the head and neck both coming back towards the user. Thus, in cutting the blanks or shaped pieces from which the body is formed, the angle of the neck in relation to the body is so chosen that it assumes a more or less natural position when the user is astraddle of the body. This alteration in profile is clearly shown by a comparison of Figures 2 and 3.

It is found that with practice such a body can be "ridden" without mishap even in a rough sea, and it may be used as a "mount" for a player in various aquatic sports, for example in the game of water-polo.

It is obviously within the invention to form the body of any shape and to represent any desired beast or bird or such other device as the designer may take for his model.

Obviously the inflatable body may be embellished in any desired manner. For example, features such as eyes, nostrils, and mouth or other features pertinent to the particular beast, bird or device which it is intended to represent, may be applied as found most desirable; or an indication of a saddle or the application of a cover to represent a saddle may be added.

A balance weight or balance weights could also be added if necessary, to stabilise the body when afloat. Alternatively means could be provided on the body for attachment of such a weight or weights and such means could be applied

to the centre seam on the underside. For example, an eyelet or eyelets could be provided thereon from which to sustain or to which to secure any required weight or body formed of any material found to be most suitable.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

1. An inflatable body (for aquatic purposes) of elongated form composed of flexible material and so designed as to shape and dimensions that, when inflated, it can be straddled by the user and will have sufficient buoyancy to support the latter with the inflatable body partially submerged.

2. An inflatable body according to Claim 1 which in general outline

resembles the body, head and neck of an animal, bird or other creature.

3. An inflatable body according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 having means whereby it can be inflated or deflated at will.

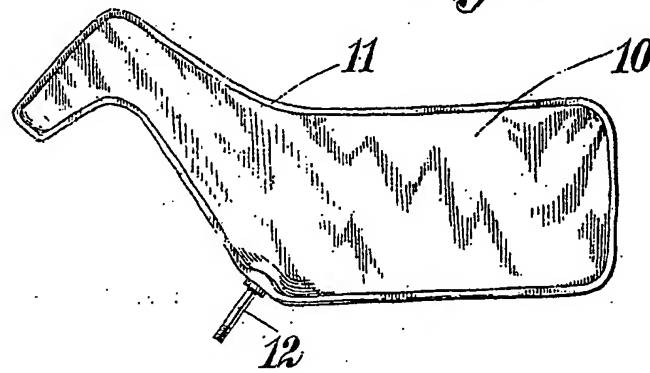
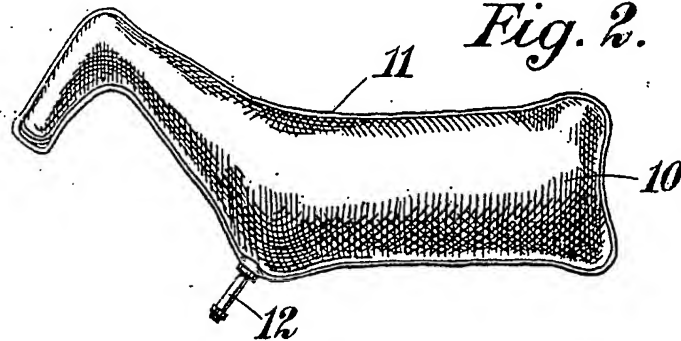
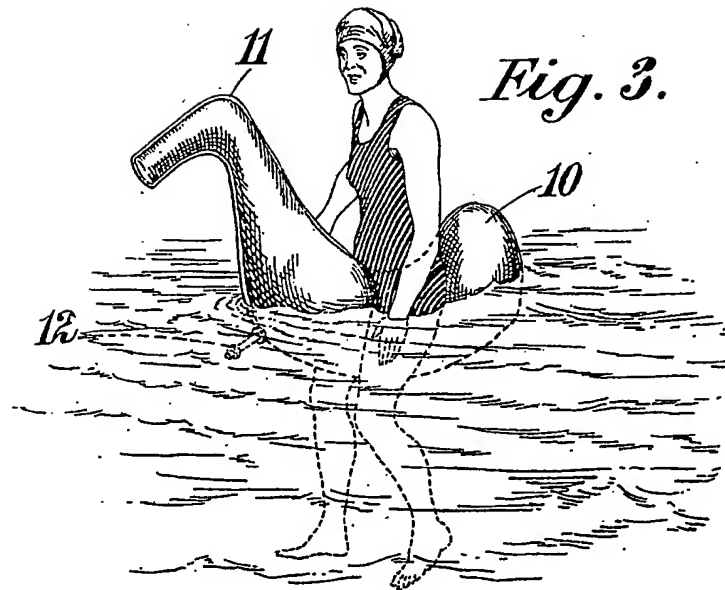
4. An inflatable body according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the envelope of the body is composed of sheet material such for example as sheet rubber or other substantially impervious and waterproof material.

5. An inflatable body substantially as described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 30th day of October, 1923.

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Fig. 1.*Fig. 2.**Fig. 3.*

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]